



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.1635 | FAX (517) 373.3300

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/vanwoerkom/

For Immediate Release
January 20, 2006

Contact: Jeff Cobb
517-373-1635

Sen. Van Woerkom brings Education Committee to Muskegon to hear local graduation requirements comments

LANSING — Sen. Gerald Van Woerkom has invited the Senate Education Committee to Muskegon County on Jan. 30 to listen to concerns of residents about proposed high school graduation requirements.

“As we begin to debate this proposal, I want input from local residents about this important change to our state’s educational system,” said Van Woerkom, R-Norton Shores, who serves as a member of the Education Committee. “The graduation requirements proposal has merit but more discussion is needed, and this hearing gives me an opportunity to listen to local education and business leaders about the skills young people need in the 21st century workforce.”

The hearing will be at 3 p.m., Jan. 30, at the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District, 630 Harvey St. in Muskegon.

The Senate is considering a proposal from the state superintendent and state Board of Education that would implement graduation requirements beyond the half year of civics class now required. The plan would require:

- Four years of English;
- Four years of math, including Algebra I and II, and geometry;
- Three years of science, including a year of biology, and either physics or chemistry;
- Three years of social science, including half-year of civics and economics;
- Two years of foreign language;
- One year of health and physical education; and,
- One year of visual or performing arts.

###